

FORM B – BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Assessor's Number USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number

5-272

ORLEANS

EAS.41

Town/City: Town of Eastham

Place: (*neighborhood or village*): North Eastham

Address: 5155 State Highway

Historic Name: Howard W. & Daisy B. Gill House

Uses: Present: single-family residence

Original: single-family residence

Date of Construction: ca. 1920

Source: deeds

Style/Form: Bungalow

Architect/Builder: unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: concrete block

Wall/Trim: wood shingles

Roof: asphalt shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures: garage & shed

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

Condition: good

Moved: no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

Acreage: 0.19 acre

Setting: The subject property is located on the northwest corner of the intersection of State Highway and Nauset Rd./Wampum Lane. The land uses in the area are mixed—directly across State Highway is the Viking Shores Resort, a commercial and residential property; katty-corner across the intersection in an office building; the adjoining lot on the west is vacant as is the one south, across Wampum Ln. Farther to the west is a single family residential neighborhood.

Photograph



View from northeast.

Locus Map (north at top)



Recorded by: Larson Fisher Associates, Inc. with Kathryn Grover

Organization: Eastham Historical Commission

Date: May 2013

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EASTHAM

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☐ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

This one-story, wood frame bungalow has a hipped roof with flattened peak and a brick center chimney. It has a nearly square footprint (30-by-36-foot) with a small lean-to extending from the right side of the cottage (recessed from both front and rear facades with entry door on its north side). The front facade has three bays with a center entrance, the door of which is probably original having a nine-light window above horizontal panels. To the left of the entrance is an enclosed/glazed porch beneath the main roof. The glazing is accomplished with four two-over-two windows. A long gable-roofed left side ell recessed from the front facade has a 14-by-20 footprint, yet is only one-bay wide and one-bay deep. No building permit is available for this addition; it was in place in 1995 when this property was first documented. Windows in the main block have been replaced since that date. The wood shingle cladding and wood corner boards remain intact.

A one-stall front gabled garage is located to the rear and north of the dwelling. Its original wood swing doors are intact. Behind the garage is a prefabricated metal shed with gable roof. A large paved driveway and parking pad is accessed off State Highway with a surprisingly wide curb cut. A wood privacy fence runs along the northern and west property lines, which was erected in 2001.¹ Many mature deciduous trees grace the yard, primarily behind the house, while there are a variety of specimen shrubs along the front of the house.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

Eastham Assessors' records date the house at 5155 State Highway to 1900, but a house does not appear at this location—directly opposite the intersection of State Highway and Nauset Road—on the 1905 Barnstable County map, and deeds suggest that the house was built between 1918, when Rebecca A. Lee sold the land to Howard W. Gill, and January 1926, when Gill's widow Daisy and her daughter Minnie W. Brewer sold the property "with a dwelling house thereon standing" to William B. Higgins.² The house occupies land that had belonged in the late 1800s to Eastham fisherman Asa G. Nickerson, the husband of Chloe N. Horton Daniels. Chloe Daniels was the daughter of Cushing and Mehitable Knowles Horton of Wellfleet, and the land was very likely Horton family land. In 1896 Nickerson sold a parcel that included his own house at 5145 State Highway and the future site of 5155 State Highway to his stepson Frank O. Daniels. In July 1916, about a year after Frank Daniels's death, his brother Charles C. Daniels sold the eight-acre parcel with 5145 State Highway and its outbuildings to Rebecca Lee. Lee sold two adjoining parcels, at the southwest corner of Aspinet Road and State Highway, to Howard W. Gill in 1918. Neither deed cites the existence of buildings.

Howard Weston Gill was born in Eastham in 1877, the son of Beniah H. and Sarah A. Sparrow Gill. He was working as a farm laborer in 1900 and living with his remarried mother, Sarah A. Chase, in North Eastham. He was working as a clerk in 1904, the year he married Brewster native Daisy B. Howland in Middleboro. The 1910 census shows Howard Gill as a shell fisherman in a household he owned next to his mother's, probably on Massasoit Road; his household also included daughters Minnie, then four years old, and Althea, three months old.

The 1920 census shows the Gill family renting on Nauset Road; Gill was then the railroad station agent in North Eastham. He died in 1922. Tax records for 1926 show his widow Daisy with a house valued at \$2000, a quarter-acre homestead lot, and 19 acres of land in other parcels. Thus the dwelling at 5155 State Highway was probably built about 1920.

In January 1926, Daisy Gill and her married daughter Minnie Weston Gill Brewer sold the two parcels Howard Gill had acquired in 1918, with a dwelling, to William B. Higgins, son of North Eastham farmer Peter Higgins. William B. Higgins was a house carpenter who by 1926 owned and maintained seven cottages on Campground Road in a subdivision developed by Alonzo K. Higgins, a distant relation. The deed specified that Daisy Gill had the right to live on the State Highway property for the rest of her life or until she remarried. In January 1927 Higgins sold the parcels back to Gill.³

The 1930 census lists Daisy B. Gill at 5155 State Highway as a forty-nine-year-old widow living with her unmarried daughter Althea F. and two boarding children. Tax records for 1931 show her with the house again valued at \$2000, the quarter-acre homestead lot, and 18 other acres elsewhere. Gill still owned and occupied the house in 1940, by which time her daughter had married Oliver Rowell, who had grown up in Wellfleet and worked as a farm laborer there in 1930; the couple lived with her at 5155 State Highway.

In 1948 Daisy Gill deeded 5155 State Highway to her daughter Althea Rowell, with the proviso that she continue to be permitted to live the rest of her life on the property.⁴ The property is shown in Althea's name in 1947 tax records. Daisy Gill died in 1954

¹ Town of Eastham Assessor records note a building permit for a fence was issued on May 16, 2001.

² Rebecca A. Lee to Howard W. Gill, 26 February 1918, Barnstable County Registry of Deeds (hereafter cited as BCD) 359:483; Rebecca A. Lee to Howard W. Gill, 24 September 1918, BCD 355:374; Daisy B. Gill and Minnie W. Brewer to William B. Higgins, 9 January 1926, BCD 552:479.

³ William B. Higgins to Daisy B. Gill, 20 January 1927, BCD 532:124.

⁴ Daisy B. Gill to Althea F. Rowell, 30 September 1948, BCD 704:202.

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and her daughter owned 5155 State Highway until her own death in 1968. In 1970 Kenneth J. and Jean L. Rapose acquired the property from Rowell's estate and in 2002 the Raposes deeded the subject property to their children who currently own it.⁵

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MAPS

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⁵ Howard E. Brewer, administrator estate Althea F. Rowell, to Kenneth L. and Jean L. Rapose, 5 January 1970, BCD 1459:978; Raposes to Lori Anne Rapose et al., 20 May 2002, BCD 15173:60. See also "Subdivision of Land in Eastham (North), Mass., Belonging to Iver N. Johnson," January 1957, Barnstable County Registry of Deeds Plan (hereafter cited as BCP) 134:135, which shows the property just east of the Johnson subdivision and labels is "Oliver P. Rowell."

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SUPPLEMENTARY IMAGES



The 1951 Johnson plan (BCP 134:135) depicts 5155 State Highway as the parcel labeled "Oliver P. Rowell et ux" between Aspinet Road on the north and a "private way" on the south, with frontage on Rt. 6.

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PHOTOGRAPHS

(credit Larson Fisher Associates, 2012-2013 unless otherwise noted)



View from southeast.



View from south.



View from east.



View from east.